3.

Plaintiff Mother's Nutritional Center, Inc. ("MNC"), for its Complaint, alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. MNC brings this action for injunctive relief and damages for federal trade dress infringement in violation of 15 U.S.C. 1125(a), California State unfair business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq., and common law trade dress infringement. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the federal question claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a). This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the claims alleging violations of state law pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1338(b) and 1367(a).

THE PARTIES

- 2. MNC is a California corporation having offices at 13635 Freeway Dr., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670.
- 3. MNC is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges that, defendant Martha's Nutritional Center a/k/a Martha's Market a/k/a Martha's Market Nutritional Center ("Martha's") is a business entity of unknown form located in Santa Ana, California. MNC further alleges that Martha's, at all relevant times hereto, has been and is doing business in this judicial district.
- 4. The true names and capacities of defendants named herein as Does 1 through 10, inclusive, including the owner and/or operator of Martha's, are presently unknown to MNC who therefore sues those defendants by such fictitious names.

 MNC will seek leave of Court to amend this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of the fictitiously named defendants when that information is obtained
- 5. Defendants Martha's and Does 1-10, inclusive, are collectively referred to herein as the "Defendants."
- 6. MNC is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each of the Defendants conspired and acted in concert with the others to commit the wrongs

against MNC alleged herein and, in doing so, were at all relevant times the agents, servants, employees, principals, joint venturers, alter egos, and/or partners of each other. MNC is further informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that in doing the things alleged in this Complaint, each of the Defendants was acting within the scope of authority conferred upon that Defendant by the consent, approval and/or ratification of the other Defendants, whether said authority was actual or apparent.

INTRODUCTION

- 7. This Complaint is necessitated by the bad faith and fraudulent actions of Defendants, who have, *inter alia*, misappropriated the unique trade dress MNC uses to identify and distinguish its stores.
- 8. MNC began as a family business based on the idea of providing assistance to new and expectant mothers under a federally-funded program for purchasing groceries. From the beginning, MNC has maintained and fostered a clean, family-friendly environment aimed at providing a pleasant and comfortable shopping experience for its customers, while also distinguishing itself from its competitors. Through these efforts, MNC has established itself as the premier store of its kind in Southern California. As part of its efforts, MNC carefully designed all aspects of the appearance of its stores, establishing a protectible trade dress.
- 9. Defendants operate a competing market that offers goods and/or services that are similar to those MNC offers in its stores.
- 10. Defendants have adopted a trade dress in their market that is confusingly similar to MNC's unique and protectible trade dress. Specifically, Defendants' store features, *inter alia*: a confusingly similar color scheme as MNC's stores, confusingly similar counter and floor designs, and confusingly similar signage, thus demonstrating an intent to mislead consumers.
- 11. Defendants are fraudulently misleading the public as to the source of Defendants' good and services. Defendants' actions are taken with full knowledge of

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MNC's intellectual property rights. This lawsuit is necessary to protect MNC's reputation and valuable intellectual property rights and to avoid further harm.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

MNC's Business

- Established in 1995, MNC is a growing chain of over 70 "WIC Only" 12. grocery stores in Southern California. In other words, each of MNC's grocery stores sell groceries exclusively as part of the federally funded Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children ("WIC"). Most of its stores are located in strip malls.
- The WIC program is a federally funded program, similar to the food 13. stamps program, that is available to new and expecting mothers, infants, and children aged 5 and under, that meet certain income guidelines. Qualified participants may obtain vouchers which can be redeemed for specific food items at licensed and designated WIC vendors, such as MNC.
- 14. Mothers and expectant mothers obtain vouchers from one of the staterun WIC offices. Under the original rules of the WIC program, mothers and expectant mothers were, at the time they obtained their vouchers, required to select the specific WIC vendor at which they would redeem their vouchers. The name of that WIC vendor was then placed on the vouchers, and those vouchers were redeemable only at the listed WIC vendor.
- On or about October 30, 2006, the WIC program altered its procedures 15. for redeeming vouchers. Program participants are no longer required to select a specific WIC vendor at the time they obtain their vouchers. Instead, WIC vouchers are now issued without regard to a particular vendor and can be redeemed at any licensed WIC vendor.
- 16. MNC began as a family business. As the company has grown, MNC has striven to maintain a family sensibility in each of its stores. From its beginning, MNC has diligently worked to distinguish itself from other WIC vendors in this

sense, in the spirit of their mottos, "Come Home to Mother's" and "Experience the
Difference." A primary goal of MNC is that all customers enjoy a pleasant shopping
experience in MNC's familiar settings. MNC's stores have come to be known as
exceptionally clean, with helpful and friendly employees. MNC's employees help
customers to their cars and each MNC's store features a learning and play area for
children.

MNC's Trade Dress

- 17. Since its inception, MNC has carefully selected unique colors and images that would become familiar to its patrons and make MNC's stores singularly identifiable within the WIC industry. MNC's stores' unique appearance consists of at least the following elements (hereinafter referred to as the "Trade Dress"):
- a) A bright, contemporary internal color scheme, including brightly colored walls and floors in orange, green, and yellow;
- b) Prominently displayed signage featuring various bright colors, including, including pink, orange and green;
 - c) Floors with yellow, green, and orange geometric shapes;
 - d) Children's play area inside the store with toys on the walls;
- e) Counters with orange tops, and yellow squares with orange borders on the sides;
- f) "Slat" shelving, *i.e.* shelves suspended directly from white slat walls, rather than traditional racks of shelves;
 - g) Metal wire racks to store and/or display juice;
 - h) Brightly colored soffit design above the product displays;
 - i) Orange baskets for customers' produce; and
 - j) Unique produce case layout and display.
- 18. MNC's unique Trade Dress is widely known among participants in the WIC program.

19. In the past several years alone, MNC has spent millions of dollars on its				
marketing media campaigns, in both English and Spanish. MNC's print and				
television advertisements often feature its Trade Dress. As a result of its extensive				
advertising and continuous and ever-expanding presence, MNC has accumulated				
significant goodwill in its Trade Dress, and consumers have come to identify MNC				
by its Trade Dress, and associate both that Trade Dress and the MNC name, with				
clean, pleasant, high-quality stores.				

Defendants' Infringing Conduct

- 20. Defendants operate a store located at 1007 S. Bristol Street #A, Santa Ana, California, 92703. Upon information and belief, like MNC's stores, Defendants' store is a WIC Only store located in a strip mall.
- 21. Defendants employ a trade dress at their store that is confusingly similar to MNC's unique and protected Trade Dress. Upon information and belied, the trade dress used by Defendants (hereinafter the "Infringing Trade Dress") includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- a) A bright, contemporary internal color scheme, that is similar to the one used by MNC in its stores, including brightly colored walls and floors;
- b) Prominently displayed signage that also features various bright colors;
- c) Floors with yellow, green, and orange geometric shapes that are similar to the ones on MNC's stores;
- d) Children's play area inside the store with toys on the walls similar to the ones in MNC's stores;
- e) Counters with orange tops, and yellow squares with orange borders on the sides that are similar, if not identical, as the ones in MNC's stores;
- f) "Slat" shelving, rather than traditional racks of shelves, that are similar to the ones used in MNC's stores;

- g) Metal wire racks to store and/or display juice that are similar to the ones used in MNC's stores;
- h) Brightly colored soffit design above the product displays that is similar to the ones on MNC's stores;
- i) Orange baskets for customers' produce that are similar to the ones used in MNC's stores; and
- j) The same or similar produce case and layout/scheme design for the produce display as the ones used in MNC's stores.
- 22. Upon information and belief, Defendants adopted and began using the Infringing Trade Dress after MNC adopted and began using its Trade Dress.
- 23. Defendants' store is of an inferior quality to MNC's stores. Yet based on the confusing similarity between MNC's Trade Dress and Defendants' Infringing Trade Dress, as described above, when customers encounter Defendants' store, they are likely to be confused into believing that Defendants' store is authorized, sponsored by, or somehow affiliated with MNC, which is not the case.
- 24. As a result of the Defendants' misappropriation of the unique Trade Dress used by MNC to identify its stores, the harm to MNC is direct and palpable. The reputation, goodwill, and standards of excellence that MNC has worked so diligently to achieve are in jeopardy. MNC has no way to control the quality of Defendants' store or services, and any problems arising in connection with Defendants' store or services may well negatively and detrimentally impact the reputation and goodwill MNC has gained among its customers.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Federal Trade Dress Infringement in Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a))

- 25. MNC realleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 24 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 26. For many years, MNC has used its distinctive Trade Dress in commerce in connection with its chain of WIC Only stores. The Trade Dress, described above,

- is comprised of distinctive features which are protected under Lanham Act § 43(a). MNC's Trade Dress is either inherently distinctive or, as result of its long-standing continuous use, has acquired secondary meaning whereby the relevant consuming public and the trade associate these features with a single source.
- 27. Defendants are using in commerce trade dress that is confusingly similar to MNC's unique and protectible Trade Dress.
- 28. MNC is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that in adopting the Infringing Trade Dress, Defendants intended to and did confuse, mislead, and/or deceive the public into believing that MNC somehow authorized, sponsored, approved, or licensed Defendants' store, which is not the case.
- 29. These impressions created by Defendants were and are false. In fact, MNC has not authorized, sponsored, licensed, or given permission to Defendants to use MNC's protected Trade Dress, or the Infringing Trade Dress, or any trade dress similar thereto, in any manner whatsoever.
- 30. MNC is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants' conduct as alleged herein was willful and undertaken with knowledge that the Infringing Trade Dress as used by Defendants is confusingly similar to MNC's Trade Dress and that its use would confuse, mislead, and/or deceive the public into believing that MNC somehow authorized, sponsored, approved, or licensed Defendants' store.
- 31. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions as described herein, MNC has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable damage to its business, reputation and good will.
- 32. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1116(a), MNC is entitled to an order enjoining Defendants' from using MNC's Trade Dress, the Infringing Trade Dress, or any trade dress similar thereto. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a), MNC is entitled to an order requiring Defendants to account to MNC for any and all profits derived by Defendants from their wrongful actions, and to an order awarding all damages

1	sustained by wine by reason of the infringement caused by Defendants.
2	Additionally, MNC is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that
3	Defendants' conduct alleged herein was intentional and in conscious disregard of
4	MNC's rights. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a), MNC is entitled to an award of treble
5	damages and/or enhanced profits against Defendants.

33. Defendants' acts make this an exceptional case under 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a) and, therefore, MNC is entitled to an award of its attorneys' fees and costs.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Unfair Business Practices in Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.)

- 34. MNC realleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 33 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 35. Defendants' acts alleged herein constitute unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent business acts or practices and/or misleading advertising pursuant to California Business & Professions Code § 17200 et seq.
- 36. MNC has been damaged and will continue to be damaged by Defendants' unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts or practices and/or misleading advertising as alleged herein.
- 37. MNC is entitled to an injunction prohibiting Defendants, their officers, agents, employees, and all persons acting in concert with them, from continuing the practices alleged herein, and MNC is entitled to restitution of all amounts acquired by Defendants by means of such wrongful acts from Defendants as a result of the unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent business practices alleged herein.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Common Law Trade Dress Infringement)

38. MNC realleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 37 above as though fully set forth herein.

- 39. Defendants' conduct constitutes trade dress infringement under California law.
- 40. By reason of Defendants' conduct MNC has sustained and will continue to sustain substantial injury, loss and damage.
- 41. Further irreparable harm and injury to MNC is imminent as a result of Defendants' conduct, and MNC is without an adequate remedy at law. MNC is entitled to an injunction restraining Defendants, their agents, employees, representatives and all persons acting in concert with them from engaging in further acts of trade dress infringement.
- 42. MNC is further entitled to recover from Defendants the damages sustained by MNC as a result of Defendants' acts of trade dress infringement, in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 43. MNC is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Defendants' conduct was willful, fraudulent and malicious and MNC is thereby entitled to punitive damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, MNC prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- A. For permanent injunctive relief against Defendants, enjoining and restraining Defendants, and all their officers, directors, stockholders, owners, agents, representatives, servants and employees, and all those acting in concert or privity therewith, from directly or indirectly:
- 1. infringing MNC's trade dress rights in any way, including, without limitation, MNC's Trade Dress as described herein;
- 2. using any false or misleading designation of origin, or any false or misleading description or statement, including, without limitation, MNC's Trade Dress as described herein, that can, or is likely to, lead the consuming public or individual members thereof, to believe that any product or service provided by

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approved or authorized by MNC; and				
	3.	engaging in any unfair business practices or acts of unfair		
competition	on in any	y manner with respect to MNC's trade dress, without limitation		

Defendants is in any manner associated or connected with MNC, or is sponsored,

- B. Ordering Defendants to file with the Court and to serve on counsel for MNC, within thirty (30) days from entry of an injunction, a report setting forth the manner and form in which Defendants have complied with the injunction.
- C. For an order that, by the acts complained of herein, Defendants have infringed MNC's rights in and to its Trade Dress, in violation of 15 U.S.C. 1125(a).
- D. For an order that, by the acts complained of herein, Defendants have engaged in unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent business acts or practices, in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.
- E. For an order that, by the acts complained of herein, Defendants have infringed MNC's common law trade dress rights.
- F. For an order awarding MNC general and/or specific damages, in an amount to be fixed by the Court in accordance with proof, including enhanced and/or exemplary damages, as appropriate, as well as all of Defendants' profits or gains of any kind from Defendants' wrongful acts; and further for an order that such acts were willful and wanton, thereby justifying an award, where appropriate, of treble or enhanced damages.
- G. For an order awarding MNC restitution of all amounts obtained by Defendants by means of their wrongful acts described herein;
- H. For an order awarding MNC its costs and attorneys' fees incurred in prosecuting this action.
 - I. For an order awarding MNC costs of suit and pre-judgment interest.

- 10 -

MNC's Trade Dress as described herein.

J. For an order awarding MNC such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED: April 6, 2011

JEFFER, MANGELS, BUTLER & MITCHELL LLP DAN P. SEDOR, P.C. AMY LERNER HILL

By:_____

DAN P. SEDOR Attorneys for Plaintiff MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC.

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff Mother's Nutritional Center, Inc. hereby demands trial by jury on all issues raised by the Complaint.

DATED: April 6, 2011

JEFFER, MANGELS, BUTLER & MITCHELL LLP DAN P. SEDOR, P.C. AMY LERNER HILL

By:

DAN P. SEDOR Attorneys for Plaintiff MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Cormac J. Carney and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Robert N. Block.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

SACV11- 528 CJC (RNBx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central n

П	Western Division 312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8	[X]	Southern Division 411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053	L	Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134
Sub	sequent documents must be filed at	the f	ollowing location;		
A co filea	opy of this notice must be served wit d, a copy of this notice must be serve	th the ∋d on	summons and complaint on all dei all plaintiffs).	fendar	nts (if a removal action is
			NOTICE TO COUNSEL		
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A	All discovery related motions s	shou	d be noticed on the calendar	of th	e Magistrate Judge
	District of California, the Magi notions.	istrai	e Judge has been designated	ю пе	ar discovery related

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

AMY LERNER HILL (Bar No. 216288) akl@jmbm. JEFFER MANGELS BUTLER & MITCHELL LLP 1900 Avenue of the Stars, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90067 Telephone: (310) 203-8080 Facsimile: (310) 203-0567 Attorneys for: Plaintiff, MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL				
UNITED STATE CENTRAL DISTR	S DISTRICT COURT UCT OF CALIFORNIA			
UNITED STATE CENTRAL DISTR MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC., a Cali Corporation PLAINTIFF(V. MARTHA'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER a/k/a MART	SACV11-00528 CUCCENEX			
MARTHA'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER a/k/a MART MARKET a/k/a MARTHA'S MARKET NUTRITION CENTER, a business entity of unknown form; and DO THROUGH 10, inclusive DEFENDANT(S	NAL OES 1 SUMMONS			
TO:DEFENDANT(S): Martha's Nutritional Center a/k/a Martha's Market a/k/a Martha's Market Nutritional Center, a business entity of unknown form; and Does 1 through 10, inclusive A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 2 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint amended complaint counterclaim cross-claim or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, Dan P. Sedor, whose address is Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP, 1900 Avenue of the Stars, 7th Floor, Los Angeles CA (310) 203-8080. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.				
APR - 6 2011 Dated:	By: Neputy Clerk (Seal of the Court)			
[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].	ates agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed			

CV-01A (12/07)

SUMMONS

American LegalNet, Inc. www.USCourtForms.com

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	ar No. 139091) dps@jmbm.co	om -	•			
E-10-Year-states	No. 216288), akl@jmbm.com					
Jeffer Mangels Butler &						
/ 1900 Avenue of the Sta	ars, 7th Fl, Los Angeles CA 9	0067				
(Phone) (310) 203-8080						
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VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has this action been previously filed in this court an	d dismissed, remanded or closed?		
If yes, list case number(s):			
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed in this court that	are related to the present case? No Yes		
If yes, list case number(s):	are foliated to the process course		
Civil cases are deemed related if a previously filed case and the present case: (Check all boxes that apply) A. Arise from the same or closely related transaction B. Call for determination of the same or substantial C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplic D. Involve the same patent, trademark or copyright	lly related or similar questions of law and fact; or		
IX. VENUE: (When completing the following information, use an additional sheet if	necessary.)		
(a) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named plaintiff. If	if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides. this box is checked, go to item (b).		
County in this District:*	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country		
Los Angeles b) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named defendant.	if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides.		
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* Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, or Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved	San Luis Obispo Counties		
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PRO PER):	Date April 6, 2011		
Notice to Counsel/Parties: The CV-71 (JS-44) Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3 -1 is not filed but is used by the Clerk of the Court for the purpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)			

CV-71 (05/08)

Page 2 of 2